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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Navigational Aids on the Black Sea/Radio Receiving
Equipment Aboard Ships

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1. Radio-beacons, found only on lighthouses, were in use by 1939, and even earlier, in the USSR. They were utilized rarely on the Black Sea because there is not much fog there. Each ship had RDF (radio-direction finder or in Russian, "radio pelengator") to receive the radio-beacon. Radar was not available in the USSR in 1941. All Sovtanker vessels had gyrocompasses. Black Sea conditions were ideally met by navigational aids such as lighthouses and buoys. There are no tides in that sea, and little fog, so one merely follows the course one has plotted. 50X1
2. the quality of Soviet technical communications personnel was quite good. All radio operators (radisti) were graduates of a three-year school for radio technicians. There was no shortage of such technicians. 50X1
3. In regard to facilities aboard Soviet ships for the reception of broadcasting, each vessel met the international registration requirements for strength of radio receiving equipment. This was done so that if the ship had to carry cargo abroad it would satisfy the international requirements and therefore be eligible for insurance. Each Soviet ship had radio receiving equipment. It was powerful equipment as usually one could receive from anywhere in the world by short wave. 50X1

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